

The Historie.

the life of a mā: but to counterfeit dying when a man thereby liueth, is to be no counterfeit, but the true & perfect image of life indeed. The better parte of valour is discretion, in the which better part I haue saued my life. Zounds I am afraid of this gunpowder Percy, though he be dead, how if he should counterfeit too and rise? by my faith I am afraid hee would proue the better counterfeit, therefore ile make him sure, yea, and ile sweare I kild him. Why may not he rise as well as I? nothing confutes me but eies, and no body sees me: therefore sirra, with a new wound in your thigh, come you along with me.

*He takes vp Hotspur on his backe. Enter Prince
John of Lancaster.*

Prin. Come brother Iohn, full brauely hast thou sleight
Thy mayden sword.

John of Lan But soft, whom haue we heere?
Did you not tell me this fat man was dead?

Prin. I did, I saw him dead,
Breathlesse and bleeding on the ground. Art thou aliue?
Or is it fantasie that playes vpon our eiesight?
I preethe speake, we will not trust our eies
Without our eares, thou art not what thou seemst.

Fal No thats certaine, I am not a double man: but if I bee
not Iacke Falstaffe, then am I a Iacke: there is Percy, if your
father will doe me anie honour, so: if not, let him kill the next
Percie himselfe; I looke to bee either Earle or Duke, I can as-
sure you.

Prin. Why Percy, I kild my selfe, and saw thee dead.

Falst. Didst thou? Lord, Lord, howe this world is giuen to
lying, I graunt you I was downe, and out of breath, and so was
he, but we rose both at an instant, and fought a long houre by
Shrewesburie clocke, if I may be beleeu'd so: if not, let them
that should rewarde valour, beare the sinne vpon their owne
heads. Ile take it vpon my death, I gaue him this wound in the
thigh, if the man were aliue, and would denie it, zounds I would
make him eate a peece of my sword.

John. This is the strangest tale that euer I heard.

Prin. This is the strangest fellow, brother Iohn,
Come bring your luggage nobly on your backe.

For